Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Martin and Jessie Cordell exchanged their wedding vows on April 23, 1945, in Kranzburg, South Dakota, at Holy Rosary Church, promising to share their lives and love together for the rest of their days; and,

Whereas, The newly-wed couple of 60 years ago has been replaced by two devoted partners who have shared life's beauty and sorrow, and have grown to love one another more because of their common journey; and,

Whereas, Jessie began her nursing career at Luther Hospital in Watertown where she met Martin, who was a patient, just 4 days after starting her job; and,

Whereas, One hot summer night just 1 block south of Luther Hospital, Martin proposed to Jessie bending on one knee and Jessie accepted; and,

Whereas, Martin and Jessie gave life and love to 13 children: Ralph, Andrew, Howard, Edward, Kathleen, John, Lucille, Paul, Stephen, Cecilia, Patricia, Alvin, and Martin W., who blessed them with 32 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Martin and Jessie have lived on their homestead northeast of Watertown since they were married; working hand-in-hand farming, milking dairy cattle, and raising pigs, sheep, and chickens--all the while, Jessie continued to work at Luther Hospital in Watertown as a registered nurse; and,

Whereas, Through their lifelong dedication to the values of caring and sharing, Martin and Jessie have helped make South Dakota a great place to live and work; and,

Whereas, It is altogether fitting and proper that the Governor of South Dakota recognizes and commemorates the memorable milestones in the lives of the state's outstanding citizens:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2005, as

MARTIN AND JESSIE CORDELL DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with the honored couple's family and friends in wishing them continued health and happiness in a state that stands prouder today because of their contributions and commitment.

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In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State